

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



OCTOBER 4, 2026

JESUS FED A CROWD

MATTHEW 14; MARK 6; LUKE 9; JOHN 6

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. This miracle showed that He is God's Son. Jesus is the Bread of Life. He meets our greatest need—not just for food, but for forgiveness and eternal life with God.

LEADER DEVO

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only public miracle, other than Jesus' resurrection, recorded in all four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We should pause and ask, “Why this one? What about this miracle made it so unforgettable that no Gospel writer could leave it out?”

We can get a clue toward the importance of the miracle through its framing in the book of Luke. The miracle sits between two key questions: “Who is this?” (Luke 9:9), asked by a bewildered and disturbed King Herod, and “Who do you say that I am?” (Luke 9:20), asked by Jesus of His disciples immediately following the miracle.

Throughout the book of Luke, Jesus declares important truths during meals. From the dinners at Pharisees' houses to the last supper, meals in the book of Luke often carry significant meaning. And this miracle of feeding the 5,000 is no different. It's not just a moment of compassion—it's a moment of revelation and foreshadowing. It's the answer to the questions posed by Herod and Jesus Himself.

It's fitting that Luke ends the section with Peter's declaration: “You are the Christ of God.” That's where every true encounter with Jesus should lead. The one who takes, blesses, breaks, and gives is not merely a miracle-worker. He is the Messiah—the one who fills us, sustains us, and saves us. And when we recognize Him as such, our only right response is the same as Peter's worship and confession declaring, “You are the Christ.” This week, lead kids to be ready to answer the question, “Who is Jesus,” by recognizing Him as Messiah and Lord.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,’”

JOHN 11:25



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

OCT 25

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

When learning longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once! Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those memorized, add another five or so words, and so on.

LESSON

Jesus had been teaching and healing people. He got into a boat with His disciples to go to a quiet place to rest. But many people saw Jesus and His disciples leaving. Crowds ran ahead and met them when they reached the shore! Jesus looked at the large crowd of people and had compassion for them. He cared for them like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He taught them about God's kingdom and healed those who were sick.

As the day went on, the disciples came to Jesus. "It's getting late," they said. "Send the people away so they can find food."

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples were surprised. They said, "We would have to work for months to buy enough food for everyone!" Andrew, one of the disciples, said, "There's a boy here with five small loaves of bread and two fish, but that's not enough for so many people."

Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups. Jesus took the loaves and fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks. Then He broke the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to the disciples to pass out. Something miraculous happened. The bread and fish never ran out! The people—about 5,000 men plus women and children—ate as much as they wanted. When everyone was full, the disciples gathered 12 baskets full of leftovers. The people saw this miracle and said, "This really is the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Later, Jesus taught the crowd again. "Don't work for food that will only last a short time," He said. "Work for the food that lasts forever. I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty."

CHRIST CONNECTION

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SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) What does this story tell us about God's provision for our needs?
- 2) The things we need and the things we want are not always aligned. Does God always provide the things we want? Why not?
- 3) How can we learn to trust God to provide for our needs, especially when He doesn't give us something we want?
- 4) What is the greatest need of all people? How does God provide for that need?
- 5) Is there something that you need or want right now? How can we be praying alongside you for that?

Spend some time praying as a group!

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!